

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please cancel Claims 11-13 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as shown below. This Listing of Claims will replace prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) An information processing method for converting input color data indicating a plurality of color components including a black color component into output color data that indicates a plurality of color components including a black color component, said information processing method comprising:

determining a relationship between lightness levels and black color based on characteristics of an output device; and

determining, when a black-printing compensation is applied and the input color data indicates a simple black color, output color data for a simple black color having a lightness level equivalent to a lightness level of the input color data, based on the determined relationship between lightness levels and black color.

2. (original) An information processing method according to claim 1, wherein the input color data is converted into the output color data via a device-independent color space by using a source profile and a destination profile;

wherein the relationship between lightness levels and black color is determined by using the destination profile; and

wherein when the input color data indicates a simple black color, lightness information is determined by converting the input color data into color data represented by the device-dependent color space by using the source profile, and the output color data for a simple black color is determined from the lightness information by using the relationship between lightness levels and black color.

3. (original) An information processing method according to claim 1, wherein the input data and the output data are either simple black colors or achromatic.

4. (currently amended) An information processing method for converting input color data into output color data that indicates a plurality of color components including a black color component, said information processing method comprising:

determining a relationship between lightness levels and black color based on characteristics of an output device; and

determining, when a black-printing compensation is applied and the input color data indicates an achromatic color, output color data for black color having a lightness level equivalent to a lightness level of the input color data based on the relationship between lightness levels and black color.

5. (original) An information processing method according to claim 4, wherein the input color data is formed of a red color component, a green color component, and a blue color component, and, when the red color component, the green color component, and the blue color component are equal to each other, the input color data is determined to be an achromatic color.

6. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon a program for implementing an information processing method for converting input color data indicating a plurality of color components including a black color component into output color data that indicates a plurality of color components including a black color component, said program implementing:

determining a relationship between lightness levels and black color based on characteristics of the output device; and

determining, when a black-printing compensation is applied and the input color data indicates black color, output color data for the black color having a

lightness level equivalent to a lightness level of the input color data based on the relationship between lightness levels and black color.

7. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon a program for implementing an information processing method for converting input color data into output color data that indicates a plurality of color components including a black color component, said program implementing:

determining a relationship between lightness levels and black color based on characteristics of the output device; and

determining, when the input color data indicates an achromatic color, output color data for black color having a lightness level equivalent to a lightness level of the input color data based on the relationship between lightness levels and black color.

8. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus for converting input color data indicating a plurality of color components including a black color component into output color data that indicates a plurality of color components including a black color component, said information processing apparatus comprising:

a first section arranged to determine a relationship between lightness levels and black color based on characteristics of an output device; and

a second section arranged to determine, when a black-printing compensation is applied and the input color data indicates black color, output color data for black color having a lightness level equivalent to a lightness level of the input color data based on the relationship between lightness levels and black color.

9. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus for converting input color data into output color data that indicates a plurality of color components including a black color component, said information processing apparatus comprising:

a first section arranged to determine a relationship between lightness levels and black color based on characteristics of an output device; and

a second section arranged to determine, when a black-printing compensation is applied and the input color data indicates an achromatic color, output color data for black color having a lightness level equivalent to a lightness level of the input color data based on the relationship between lightness levels and black color.

10. (original) The information processing apparatus of claim 9 wherein the black color is a simple black color.

11-13. (canceled)